## **CLAIMS**

What is claimed is:

1. A benzylidene alditol acetal comprising at least one substituted benzylidene component wherein said at least one substituted benzylidene component possesses at least one fluorine pendant group and at least one other pendant group, wherein said at least one other pendant group is not hydrogen, and wherein if said at least one other pendant group is fluorine, at least one other non-hydrogen pendant group is present on said benzylidene component.